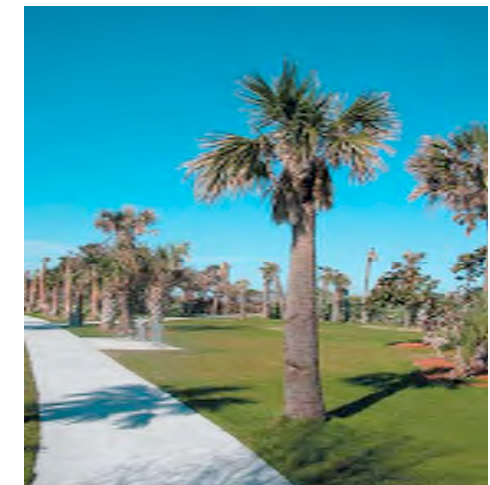




Figure 11: Bay Access Park Prototype - Perspective View

Bay Access Park

Figure 11 depicts a prototype for a neighborhood park that provides bay access. Located at various points throughout the Village, the parks consist of one or two lots at the terminus of some east/west collector streets. The new parks would provide an amenity for the neighborhoods surrounding each space, as well as for the community at large. Although designed primarily for passive use, the dusk-'til-dawn parks could include a pier from which to launch small boats, such as kayaks.

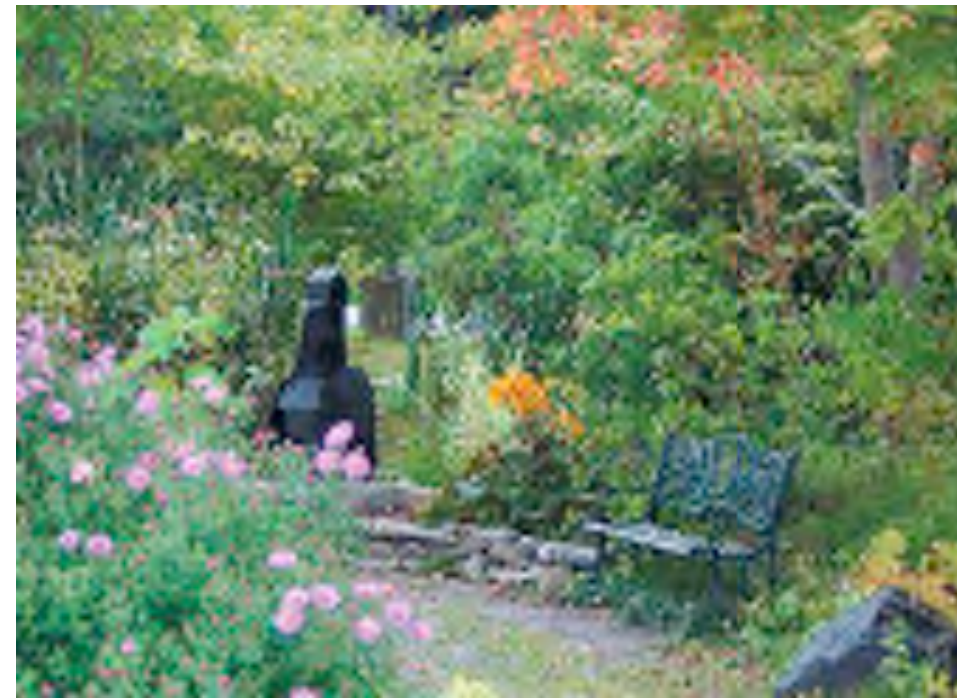




Beach Walk

Enhanced access to the bay and ocean were repeatedly mentioned as both a need and an opportunity in the 2020 Vision Plan. A raised boardwalk, based on the model of the Miami Beach boardwalk, could enhance general access to the island's Atlantic Ocean beach. As conceptualized, the boardwalk could extend north and south from Village Lake Park (Figure 12), running over the dune to minimize impacts and enhance protection of this fragile environment. The boardwalk would be designed to provide a limited number of access points and to avoid encroachment upon existing private access to the beach.

Figure 12: Beach Walk



Potential Neighborhood Park Elements

Neighborhood-Scale and Mini Parks

In spite of recent major initiatives to create new parks and recreational facilities, the 2005 Master Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) indicates that the Village continues to have an unmet need for recreation and open space amenities to serve existing and future residents. Due in great part to the limited supply of vacant land, and its cost, the Village has been unable to meet a Level of Service Standard (LOS) of 2.5 acres of open space and recreation per 1,000 persons of population, established in the Master Plan.

The deficiencies documented in the EAR include neighborhood-scale and mini parks, which impact service to the growing population of families with children, as well as the level of service by individual neighborhood. For this reason, among the various potentials for other types of open space, this Plan envisions the long-term creation of an array of mini parks and small-scale neighborhood parks to be located throughout the Village. Mini parks are developed and landscaped open space areas, usually less than 1.0 acre in size, located in residential neighborhoods and reserved for recreational activities of residents living within a reasonable walking distance. While locations are not identified in the Plan, these small parks could be established through opportunistic public acquisition of existing parcels (i.e., if and when an appropriate site might come up for sale), or through abandonment of an existing street right-of-way. The images to the left depict elements that may be included in these facilities, including water features, tot-lots, walking paths, seating, and lush gardens.



Figure 13: Multi-Modal Transit Opportunities

Village Tram and Water Taxi

The perceived continued increase in traffic congestion and circulation issues around the Village has driven the investigation of alternative modes of transportation, including golf carts, bicycles, walking, and transit (both intra-island and inter-city models).

On the transit side, the Village could consider a tram/shuttle to provide connectivity among Village destinations, and a water taxi to provide non-automobile access to employment, shopping and entertainment in Coconut Grove, downtown Miami, and Miami Beach. These two opportunities are considered long-range projects, as they would require extensive intergovernmental coordination and funding.